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25X1

15 October 1946

This is UNEVALUATED Information

Country: Poland

Subject: The First Brandenburg Fighter Air Division

Information Date:

Evaluation:

Reference:

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1. The organization of the First Brandenburg Fighter Air Division at Krakow is as follows:

CO: Colonel Khlunovich; Russian (Field Comment: On 22 November 1942 Major I. M. Khlunovich was identified as CO of the 30th Guards Fighter Air Regiment of the Soviet Air Force. Presumably he is the officer mentioned above.)

Deputy CO: Lt. Col. Vorotnikov; a Russian, to whom the following are subordinated:
Divisional Engineer
Chief of Division Chemical Services
Chief of Signals
Chief of Meteorological Services
Division Observer
(Field Comment: This is the first identification of Lt. Col. Vorotnikov.)

Political Education Deputy: In charge of the Political Education Section.

Chief of Staff: To whom are subordinated:
Operational Department: Three officers
Information Department: One officer
Personnel Department
Signals Section
Transport Platoon
Repairs and Exploitation Unit
Meteorological Section
Chief Office (Kancelarja Glowna)

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Flying Inspector (for controlling the technique and flying ability of the officer-pilots of the division)
The division consists of three regiments.

2. Personnel of the 3rd Air Force Regiment of the division are as follows:

CO: Major Polyakhin; a Russian; wears a Soviet uniform; shot down seventeen airplanes during the war.

Deputy CO (Training): Major Jenkin; a Russian who does not speak Polish; wears a Soviet uniform.

Deputy CO (Political Education): Capt. Dithcenko; a Russian who regards himself as Polish; he speaks little Polish and wears a Polish uniform.

Regimental Chief of Staff: Major Shurakov; a Russian; he does not speak Polish. In the USSR he was assigned to the French "Normandie" Squadron.

Personnel Department of the regiment: Kryaitcyn; a Russian warrant officer who speaks little Polish.

Regimental Engineer: Major Sevchenko; Russian.

CO First Squadron: Capt. Watfleyev; Russian. This squadron is composed of Soviets only.

CO Second Squadron: Capt. Markov; Russian. In this squadron are young pilots from an aviation school in the USSR.

CO Third Squadron: ?
There are three Poles and two Soviets in the squadron.

CO Fourth Squadron: Cadet Officer Rozpercy; Russian. This squadron is composed of one Pole and the remainder are Soviets.

3. The First Brandenburg Fighter Air Division is equipped with Soviet "YAK 9" aeroplanes. For training purposes this plane can be converted into a two-seater which is fairly manoeuvrable. The engine is an Klimow-Swiza, 1,200 HP, of an antiquated type which the Soviets used during the war. This plane may be used for night flying, as it is provided with light-signalling apparatus. Landing can take place without concrete runways.

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4. The planes which are allocated to this division are old and worn-out. All engines had to be subjected to a general overhauling. Each plane has a W/T set. When training (and only for training purposes) one plane per squadron is adapted for radio-location. One plane per squadron is equipped with two cameras for vertical and oblique photographs. Fuel stocks in the tanks amount to about 700 litres, which is sufficient for about four hours' flight.

5. Armament of the planes consists of one 37 mm Shvak-type gun of Soviet construction, firing through the propeller. The gun fires with great accuracy, is easy to get at and easy to service. It takes thirty rounds of ammunition. In addition, the plane is equipped with one single-barrel MG, of a type not identified. It is synchronized for firing through the propeller and has 500 rounds. Informant stated that the armament was rather poor.

6. Arms are not issued to everyone but only where required for service duties. In one squadron only fourteen rifles were issued among thirty men. The remaining weapons (automatic arms or pistols, etc.) are kept in store. The rifles were stated to be of an old type and no ammunition was issued.

7. Officers (flying personnel - pilots and observers) are issued a special category of food; they are given food free in officers' messes three times daily in sufficient quantities. Officers with families (Soviets and Poles alike) are issued food in kind. Members of a family receive 50% of an officer's allocation. UNRRA assistance is also given to Soviet officers in the Polish Army. Technical officers have their own scale, which is less and of poorer quality than that for the flying personnel.

8. As regards rations, privates are also divided into two categories: mechanics receive slightly better food than assistants, who are in the lower category. The latter openly complain of the quantity and quality of the food, which consists chiefly of porridge, string beans, and herring. They are given meat two or three times a week. Officers receive 200 cigarettes every ten days and men receive fifty cigarettes and tobacco.

9. Pay, which is issued about the fifteenth of every month, does not depend as much on the rank as on the nature of employment. This is particularly true in the case of Soviet officers and political-educational officers. The pay is very low and forces the officers to resort to trading, which is often carried on to an extent quite out of keeping with their rank. Privates are paid, according to their employment, from 300 to 600 zlotys per month; cadet officers receive 1,300 zlotys; a squadron leader, 2,600 zlotys. The present price in the free market for a pair of shoes is 3,000 - 4,000 zlotys; the exchange rate of one USA dollar is 400 zlotys.

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